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Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Evaluation of the Croatian DCF National Programme 2014-2016 (STECF-13-17)

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SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF)

Evaluation of the Croatian DCF National Programme 2014-2016 (STECF-13-17)

THIS REPORT WAS ISSUED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE IN AUGUST 2013

Background

The Croatian NP2013 was reviewed by a pre-screener under an ad hoc contract, followed by a STECF EWG-13-02 and the spring 2013 STECF plenary meeting. Just as the NP2011-2013 of the 22 EU MS were rolled over, unchanged, for the period 2014-2016, the Croatian NP2014-2016 is based on its 2013NP. However, for the 2013NP, a few derogations were granted to Croatia, but only for 2013 i.e. these are not valid for 2014-2016 and hence the Croatian NP2014-2016 is not exactly the same as a 3-year version of the NP2013.

To facilitate the review by STECF of the Croatian NP2014-2016, the Commission requested from Croatia a summary of the changes made compared to their 2013 NP.

Request to the STECF

The STECF is requested to evaluate the Croatian DCF National Programme 2014-2016, in accordance with Council Reg 199/2008 Article 6.1b.

It has been agreed between the DG Mare and the STECF that the evaluation of the Croatian DCF National Programme 2014-2016 will be delivered through a written procedure and should have to be provided to the Commission by 19 August 2013 or 28 August at the very latest – depending on STECF member presence and availability

STECF response

STECF acknowledges that in the amendments to its 2013 NP for 2014-2016, the Republic of Croatia has taken into account the comments made in the report of the EWG 13-02 and endorsed by STECF (STECF 13-02); namely by adopting the naming conventions and most recent recommendations agreed by RCM Med&BS (2009, 2010 and 2011 reports) and applying the standard codes as reported in the Commission Decision 93/2010/EC. STECF also acknowledges the accompanying summary on the differences between NP 2013 and NP 2014-2016, which was most valuable for the preparation of this evaluation.

STECF notes that Croatia has enhanced its future planning for data collection which will facilitate the monitoring of specific derogations for important métiers and species.

According to Commission Decision 93/2010, all MSs performing the ranking system should use the average values of the 2 previous years. The Croatian Authorities explained that due to changes in legislation in the beginning of 2011, some changes in data retrieval routines still need to be

implemented in order to prepare the data by métier. Hence at present, only 2010 data are available. STECF advises that as soon as such procedures are operational, the Croatian Authorities should adopt the approach defined in STECF-13-09, for the roll-over of Member States' National programmes for Data Collection 2014-2016, i.e:

‘MS should review their rankings of métiers and stocks for sampling using the most recent fisheries statistics. Where significant changes in rankings are observed, the consequences for sampling should be discussed and agreed in the relevant Regional Co-ordination Meetings (RCMs) and the MS’s NP for the subsequent year should be amended accordingly.’

STECF notes that regarding provision of transversal data, Croatia has been granted a derogation for the first year of the program (2013). However the multi-annual NP for 2014-2016 also retains the same derogation for transversal data. STECF stress that if the proposed derogation is permitted, transversal data for the Republic of Croatia would most likely not be provided in response to data calls for the years 2013 to 2016, STECF considers that such data should be important and if requested, should be provided.

STECF stresses that for future NP proposals any pilot studies should be described according to the General comment on the pilot study time frame from implementation to evaluation in the STECF EWG 13-02 report (STECF 13-02):

“When a MS proposes a pilot study in its NP, details of the duration of the study should be given, together with information on when the results are to be expected. This and which STECF Expert Group will be responsible for the evaluation should be included in the guidelines.”

Regarding research surveys at sea and for the future, STECF stresses the need for Croatia to provide additional information on the procedures to be taken to ensure the continuity of data collected under the MEDITS research survey, given that the vessel and in the crew will change from 2013 onwards.

Given the above considerations, STECF notes that the proposed Croatian Multi-annual Programme for data collection for 2014-2016, represents an enhanced version of EU Multiannual Programme for the period 2013 (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU) and has been amended in accordance with STECF recommendations. STECF concludes that the proposal is scientifically sound and can be justified as an acceptable way forward for the provision of data under the DCF for the period 2014-2016.

List of STECF members

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Abstract

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